

REMARKS

Consideration is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing Amendments, which are explained in the Remarks that follow.

Claims 22-37 are pending in the application, with claims 22 and 30 being the independent claims. Claims 1-21 are canceled. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully submits, filed concurrently herewith, an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) which includes all of the references of which the applicant is currently aware, including: i) the cited references from the above cross-referenced patent applications, and ii) the office actions, including the detailed actions, from the above cross-referenced patent applications. While applicant understands that the submission of the actions is not required by the Office (See MPEP 2001.06(b)), applicant respectfully provides the actions in order to expedite the examination of the present application, and to facilitate an efficient exchange of information with the Office.

Furthermore, applicant understands that the entire file histories, including the above-mentioned detailed actions, are available to each and every Examiner of the Office through the Electronic File System (EFS). Applicant respectfully submits that for applications available through the EFS, the above-stated cross-reference to related applications complies with the applicable statutes and rules.

Substitute Declaration and Power of Attorney

Applicant respectfully submits a Substitute Declaration and Power of Attorney executed by the sole inventor. This substitute declaration is entered to clarify any ambiguity in the originally filed declaration, and to ensure effectiveness in light of the current amendments. If the Office has

any concerns or comments with regard to this document, the Office is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicant has amended the title, as presented above, and respectfully requests that this amendment be accepted. If the Examiner does not think that this title is descriptive, then applicant invites the Examiner to provide an alternative title at his convenience.

In addition, applicant respectfully provides correction to the priority and cross-reference to related applications which is in accord with the IDS filed concurrently herewith.

Applicant respectfully submits amendments to page 20 which correct a typographical error with respect to Fig. 7.

Applicant respectfully submits amendments to page 21 which update the serial no. of a cross-referenced patent application.

These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Dated: June 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By W. Russell Swindell
W. Russell Swindell

Registration No.: 50,906
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998
(202) 344-4000
(202) 344-8300 (Fax)
Attorney/Agent For Applicant